

Skull stouter and heavier. Nasals of more equal breadth throughout, not so markedly compressed and pointed anteriorly, nor so much bowed in profile. Frontal region broader, and the postorbital processes projecting much further out from the skull.

Dimensions.—Head and body (from skin) (c.) 450 millim., tail, with tuft, (c.) 60, ear from crown behind 83, hind foot 107.

Skull: greatest length, from occiput to gnathion, 83; nasals, greatest length 35, combined breadth anteriorly 15 (against 11·5 in a good Shanghai specimen of *L. s. typicus*), posteriorly 18·8 (against 19·2); least interorbital breadth 21 (against 18); least intertemporal breadth 12·2 (against 12·2); distance from the bottom of the postorbital notch to a point on the outer edge of the postorbital process level with it transversely 8 (against 5·4). Palate, length 34. Diastema 22. Breadth of palatal bridge 7. Antero-posterior diameter of bulla 10·5 (against 11·8).

Hab. Söul, the capital of Corea.

Type a skin obtained on Jan. 28, 1889, and presented to the Museum by Mr. Charles W. Campbell, of Her Majesty's Consular Service.

As the Museum at present possesses only summer skins of *L. sinensis typicus*, it is possible that the above differences in colour will prove to be only a seasonal character; but the skull differences are so marked and so constant in a series of S. Chinese skulls that I do not feel justified in allocating the Corean hare to the older-known form.

Should, however, the colour differences prove to be constant throughout the year it is possible that it will be found necessary to elevate *L. sinensis coreanus* to the rank of a distinct species.

XXV.—*Description of a new Species of Meriones from Palestine.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE Gerbille now described belongs to the group known as *Meriones*, a group which, in agreement with Brandt and Lataste, and differing from F. Cuvier, Blanford, and Büchner, I consider differs so essentially from *Gerbillus* as to merit its retention as a distinct genus.

I propose, in honour of its discoverer, to name the species

Meriones Tristrami, sp. n.

Size rather small, about equal to that of *M. meridianus*, Pall. Ears rather long and narrow, laid forward they reach beyond the middle of the eye. Fur long and soft. Colour above dull fulvous, grizzled with black, the general tone not unlike that of *M. Shawi*. Underside, hands, and feet white. Palms quite naked, granulated, with three small distal and two large proximal pads. Soles mainly hairy, but with a naked stripe running from the heel forwards to just past the tarso-metatarsal joint; distal part of sole cushioned, granulated, very thinly haired, with four minute pads at the bases of the digits and a rudiment of a fifth posterior internal pad just distinguishable. Tail grizzled yellow and brown above, with a small black terminal crest and pencil on its distal inch; uniformly yellow or white below.

Skull, for a *Meriones*, slender, narrow, and delicate, but little flattened and broadened across the parietal region. Bullæ very small for the genus, the neck of the auditory tube not dilated anteriorly towards the zygoma, as is the case in *M. meridianus* and other allied species.

Incisors slightly bevelled, each with a single groove. Molars of the most *Meriones*-like character, *i. e.* hypsodont, with lozenge-shaped laminae connected with each other throughout.

Dimensions of the type (an adult male in spirit) :—

Head and body 121 millim., tail 153, hind foot (without claw) 32, ear (above crown) 16.

Skull: greatest length (approximate) 37; length from bregma (junction of frontals with parietals) to nasal tip 25.5; zygomatic breadth 18.8; nasals, length 14.7, breadth 3.9; interorbital breadth 6.1; breadth across combined fronto-parietal sutures 12.5; (interparietal, length 5*, breadth 7.8*); length of ante-zygomatic plate 5.2; diastema 9.9; palatine foramina 6.8; bulla (greatest diameter 12.2*), greatest diameter of tympanic portion 12.0, greatest breadth from lip of meatus at right angles to last measurement 8.7. Length of upper molar series 5.5.

A second specimen, a female, has the head and body 110, tail 126, and hind foot 29.5.

Hab. Palestine.

Type (B. M. 64. 8. 17. 35) from the Dead Sea; another specimen from Mount Carmel. Both collected by Canon H. B. Tristram.

* The measurements in brackets are taken from the smaller female specimen, owing to the imperfection of the skull of the type.

This appears to be the species referred with doubt by Canon Tristram* to "*Psammomys tamaricinus*, Kuhl," but is certainly not the true *Meriones tamaricinus*, Pall., a very much larger and heavier animal. Its nearest ally is perhaps *M. meridianus*, Pall.; but neither that nor any other species with which I am acquainted has such a narrow slender skull, so little broadened posteriorly. Its small and narrow bullæ also distinguish it from all its allies.

XXVI.—*The Polyzoa of the St. Lawrence: a Study of Arctic Forms.* By the Rev. THOMAS HINCKS, B.A., F.R.S.

[Plate VIII.]

[Continued from vol. iii. p. 433.]

✓ *Flustra solida*, Stimpson. (Pl. VIII. figs. 1.)

Flustra solida, Stimpson, Marine Invertebrata Grand Manan, 1853; Hincks, "Polyzoa from Barents Sea," Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1880, ser. 5, vol. vi. p. 282, pl. xv. figs. 2, 3.

Eschara palmata, Sars, Beskriv. over nogle norske Polyzoer, 1862.

Escharella palmata, Smitt, Krit. Förteckn. öfver Skand. Hafs-Bryzoer, 1867.

Flustramorpha solida, Verrill, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1879.

This very interesting species occurs amongst the St.-Lawrence dredgings; it was obtained off Bear Head, Anticosti, at a depth of 120 fathoms. Besides the form described by Sars a small variety was met with which presents some notable peculiarities, to which I shall refer hereafter.

Zoarium erect, bilaminate, branched, attaining a height of about 3 inches, in the adult state composed of broad transversely separated segments, held together by epidermal tubular fibres, which traverse the surface of the zoarium and unite in their course downwards, so as to form cords of many strands, and ultimately give origin at the base to the fibrils by which the colony is attached to its site. *Zoecia* linear-oblong, narrow, and usually of great length, inclosed by strongly marked boundary-lines and perforated round the sides, very moderately convex, surface smooth, commonly invested by an epidermal membrane, orifice broader than high, upper margin very slightly arched, sides nearly straight, lower margin decidedly curved outward, an articular process at each

* P. Z. S. 1866, p. 89.